Malaysian Government's offer for a Medical College in India

167. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malaysian Government have approached the Government of India with an offer of an aid to establish a medical college;

(b) if so, what are the details of the offer; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Steps to popularise essential drug concept

168. SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Drug Action Network is popularising the essential drug concept to the people;

(b) whether Government have already prepared the list of essential drugs for that purpose; and

(c) what are the ways and means adopted by Government to popularise those essential drugs even to the rural population to avoid use of adulteration and out-dated medicine?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Various consumer group associations at different forums have emphasized the need to popularise the concept of essential drugs and their utilisation to the people.

(b) and (c) The Government have prepared the list of drugs meant to be utilized at various peripheral levels such as Primary Health Centres etc. which mainly cater to the rural population. These lists are quite restrictive in nature and certain drugs needed for the majority of the population.

Setting up of a committee on drugs

169. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a committee to find out irrational combinations of drugs and harmful drugs being marketed in the country;

(b) if so, by when such a committee is likely to be set up;

(c) what is the number of harmful drugs and irrational combinations of drugs being marketed in the country at present; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ban them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sub-Committee of Drugs Consultative Committee has been constituted to review drugs moving in the market from the angle of rationality and harmfulness.

(c) and (d) As and when suggestions regarding harmful/irrational combinations are received, these are examined by the sub-committee and action initiated to prohibit them from being manufactured and sold if they are considered irrational or harmful.

On the advice of Drugs Technical Advisory Board, so far 26 categories of Drugs and drugs combinations have been prohibited from manufacture and sale by the Government.

Information bulletins in medicine package

170. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2377

given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1986 and state what methods are being adopted to provide the information regarding the side effect, dosages, and precautions to be adopted for a particular medicine in the absence of a mandatory provision in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to insert information package on medicines which are being makreted by various companies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): In the case of New drugs, literature and package inserts containing various aspects of toxicity and therapeutic claims are examined and approved by the Drugs Controller (India) prior to their promotion in the medical professional circle. In cases of other drugs manufacturers are free to disseminate information through professional channels such as general brouchers, package inserts.

Harmful effect of Orabolin tablets/drops

171. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 2376 answered on 19th March, 1986 in Rajya Sabha and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orabolin-tablets and Drops are being promoted in our country for normal growth of children and optimal weight;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are reports in the world about harmful effects of this product;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the effect of use of this product is irreversible; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Orabolin tablets and Drops, being marketed in the country by M/s. Infar (India) Ltd., Calcutta, are being used for conditions of debility weight loss, burns and cases of anorexia after major surgery.

(b) to (d) The use of anabolic steroids may cause side effect like irreversible masculine effects in girls and stunting of growth in children. Medical experts consulted in the matter had opined in favour of continued marketing of anabolic steroids as these have a specific role in the management of chronic debilitating diseases particularly in elderly patients where causal and dietary measures prove in-adequate to correct defects in protein metabolism. However, based on the recommendations made by the medical experts the manufacture and sale of combinations of anabolic steroids with other drugs has been prohibited by the Government.

D-propoxphene combination with other drugs

172. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 352 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th March, 1986 in Rajya Sabha and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that combination of D-Propoxphene is being marketed in the country with Lorazepam, Onzepam, and Diazepam;

(b) if so, the names of the drug companies which are marketing such combinations;

(c) what were the considerations on which combination of D-Propoxpherne was allowed with each of these drugs;

(d) whether it is a fact that such combinations are no being marketed anywhere else in the world; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons for allowing marketing of these drugs in India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) In so far as this Ministry is aware only combi-